

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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TAGS:MARR, JA

SUBJECT: F-15 ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: BREER-FEATHERSTONE TELECON 4/25/78

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROPOSED PUBLIC RELEASE QUOTE:
THE AIR FORCE PLANS TO CONVERT THE 18TH TACTICAL FIGHTER
WING AT KADENA AB, JAPAN, FROM F-4 PHANTOM TO F-15 EAGLE
FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. THIS CONVERSION IS PART OF AN AIR FORCE
PROGRAM TO UPGRADE ITS TACTICAL FIGHTER UNITS.

THE CONVERSION AT KADENA AB IS SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER 1979
THROUGH MID-1980. WHEN FINISHED, THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATE-
LY 72 F-15S BASED AT KADENA. THE 18TH TFW MILITARY AUTHOR-
IZATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE REDUCED BY ABOUT 500 WITH THIS
ACTION. SOME FACILITIES MODIFICATION AND CONSTRUCTION WILL
BE REQUIRED.

THE F-15 IS THE AIR FORCE'S MOST ADVANCED AIR SUPERIORITY

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AIRCRAFT. IT IS STATIONED AT LUKE AFB, ARIZONA; LANGLEY
AFB, VIRGINIA; BITBURG AB, GERMANY; NELLIS AFB, NEVADA;
AND HOLLOMAN AFB, NEW MEXICO. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR RE-
SPONSE TO QUERY. QUOTE:

Q1. WHAT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE 18TH TFW WILL BE GETTING THE F-15S?

A1. THE 12TH, 44TH, AND 67TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRONS.

Q2. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE F-4 AIRCRAFT THAT ARE BEING REPLACED.

A2. THEY WILL BE REDISTRIBUTED TO MEET WORLDWIDE NEEDS OF THE AIR FORCE.

Q3. WILL THIS CONVERSION MEAN MORE AIRCRAFT AT KADENA AB?

A3. NO. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF 4 SQUADRONS WITH 18 AIRCRAFT, THERE WILL BE 3 SQUADRONS WITH 24. WHEN THE CONVERSION IS COMPLETED, ONE F-4 SQUADRON WILL INACTIVATE (25TFS)

Q4. WILL THE NEW AIRCRAFT HAVE DIFFERENT PEOPLE COMING IN WITH THEM OR WILL THE PRESENT PERSONNEL BE RETRAINED IN THE F-15?

A4. THE UPGRADE TO F-15S WILL REQUIRE SOME NEW PERSONNEL TO BE ASSIGNED TO KADENA REPLACING THOSE PERSONNEL CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO F-4 OPERATIONS, WHILE OTHER PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE WING WILL BE RETRAINED AT KADENA.

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Q5. DOES THIS MEAN THERE WILL BE MORE FLYING MISSIONS AND AN INCREASE IN NOISE LEVELS?

A5. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FLYING MISSIONS AFTER THE CONVERSION TO F-15S. AN ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION TO LOCATE THE F-15S TO KADENA AND IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF F-15S INTO THE BASE WILL NOT INCREASE THE NOISE LEVELS. THE RAPID RATE OF CLIMB AFTER TAKEOFF COULD ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE SITUATION AROUND KADENA AB.

Q6. WHAT WILL THE CONSTRUCTION CONSIST OF?

A6. CONSTRUCTION WILL CONSIST OF FOLLOWING FACILITIES: NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTION FACILITY; AIRCRAFT ENGINE INSPECTION/REPAIR FACILITY; ALTERATION OF THREE HANGARS; ALTERATION OF TWO MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS; ADDITION TO AND ALTERATION OF SIX MAINTENANCE DOCKS; ENGINE TEST STAND; AVIONICS MAINTENANCE FACILITY; POWERCHECK PAD; AND A FLIGHT SIMULATOR.

Q7. IS THIS MOVE CONNECTED WITH THE CONTEMPLATED PURCHASE OF THE F-15 BY THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY?

A7. THIS MOVE IS NOT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE CONTEMPLATED PURCHASE OF THE F-15S BY THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY. THIS CHANGEOVER IS PART OF AN OVERALL U.S. AIR FORCE UPGRADE PROGRAM AND HAS BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGES FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

Q8. WHEN WILL THE FIRST PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE F-15 "BEDDOWN" ARRIVE AT KADENA AB?

A8. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC DATE SINCE THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE COMING AT VARIOUS TIMES TO WORK
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WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS CHANGEOVER. THERE WILL BE NO MASS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE INTO OR OUT OF KADENA.

Q9. WILL THIS MOVE BRING ANY CHANGES IN THE USE OF AIR-TO-AIR OR AIR-TO-GROUND PRACTICE RANGES IN THE OKINAWA AREA?

A9. THERE SHOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE USE OF THE AIR-TO-GROUND RANGES SINCE THEY ARE USED BY ALL U.S. FORCES. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE SOME INCREASE IN THE USE OF AIR-TO-AIR RANGES SINCE THE F-15 IS DESIGNED AS AN AIR SUPERIORITY FIGHTER. THIS WILL NECESSITATE SOME INCREASE IN THE AIR-TO-AIR TRAINING REQUIRED FOR THE AIRCREWS.

Q10. HAS THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS MOVE OF F-15S INTO OKINAWA?

A10. YES. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WAS FULLY INFORMED OF THE AIR FORCE PROGRAMMED CHANGE TO F-15 EQUIPAGE.

Q11. DOES THIS MOVE HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA?

A11. NO, IT DOES NOT. IT IS PART OF AN OVERALL AIR FORCE UPGRADE PROGRAM AND HAS BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGES FOR SOME TIME.

Q12. CAN THE F-15 CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

A12. NO. THE F-15 IS NOT CONFIGURED TO CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Q13. WHY IS THE U.S. AIR FORCE DEPLOYING THESE NEW AIR-
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CRAFT TO KADENA TO REPLACE THE F-4?

A13. THIS IS THE RESULT OF AN AIR FORCE UPGRADING PROGRAM WHICH IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNITS OF THE PACIFIC AIR FORCE THE NEWEST AND MOST MODERN WEAPONS SYSTEMS AVAILABLE IN THE AIR FORCE INVENTORY.

Q14. CAN THE F-15 FLY NON-STOP TO U.S. BASES IN KOREA?

A14. THE U.S. BASES IN SOUTH KOREA ARE WITHIN F-15 RANGE.

Q15. HOW MANY F-15S WILL BE BASED AT KADENA? HOW MANY PER SQUADRON?

A15. 72 AIRCRAFT -- 24 PER SQUADRON.

Q16. HOW MANY F-4S ARE CURRENTLY BASED AT KADENA? HOW MANY PER SQUADRON?

A16. 72 AIRCRAFT -- 18 PER SQUADRON.

Q17. WHAT WILL THE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COST?

A17. TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$5.4 MILLION.
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